

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/720,660

Applicant(s)

JONES ET AL.

Examiner

KHAI TRAN

Art Unit

2611

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the response filed 8/30/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The response filed 8/30/2007 has been entered. Claims 1-12 are pending in this Office action.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-12 are allowed.
3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: none of the prior art of the record discloses or suggests that a signal observation system (SOS) for controlling a plurality of receiver channels simultaneously, the receiver channels comprised of tunable receivers and digitizers in a hardware configuration, wherein the tunable receivers and digitizers possess inherent properties that define their respective capabilities, the SOS comprising: a processor readable storage medium; code recorded in the processor readable storage medium to process a frequency schedule that defines an observation run, the frequency schedule being comprised of a set of lists, each list corresponding to a separate receiver channel, the lists comprised of a plurality of frequencies that define the frequencies each receiver channel is to observe during execution of the observation run and how long to observe each frequency before re-tuning to the next frequency in the list; code recorded in the processor readable storage medium to generate a local synchronization signal that defines a triggering hierarchy that each receiver channel will reference during the observation run; and code recorded in the processor readable storage medium to generate a start signal that is broadcast to the receiver channels that initiates an observation run that binds each receiver channel to the frequency schedule as recited in claim 1. None of the prior art

discloses storage means to receive and store digitized data observed by said receiver channels; triggering means to control the tuning of the receivers and the timing of the digitizers; and a processor coupled via a digital backplane with the digitizers, receivers, storage means, and triggering means to control the actions of the digitizers, receivers, storage means, and triggering means based on a user supplied frequency schedule, as recited in claim 6. And none of the prior art discloses processing a frequency schedule that defines an observation run, the frequency schedule being comprised of a set of lists, each list corresponding to a separate receiver channel, the lists comprised of a plurality of frequencies that define the frequencies each receiver channel is to observe during execution of the observation run and how long to observe each frequency before re-timing to the next frequency in the list; generating a local synchronization signal that defines a triggering hierarchy that each receiver channel will follow during the observation run; and generating a start signal that is broadcast to the receiver channels that initiates an observation run that binds each receiver channel to the frequency schedule, as recited in claim 8.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KHAI TRAN whose telephone number is (571) 272-3019. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00AM - 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Payne can be reached on (571) 272-3024. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



KHAI TRAN
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2611

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May 24, 2007